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Each year, we help hundreds of constituent veterans who are having problems with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). If you have had troubles dealing with the VA, we might be able to help you too. Please return a completed [Privacy Act Release Form](#) to my Mobile office so that I may contact the SSA on your behalf.

### **How Can I Contact the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) ?**

The VA has toll free numbers for the convenience of veterans and dependents.

Benefits Information	1-800-827-1000
Beneficiaries in Receipt of Pension Benefits	1-877-294-6380
Education (GI Bill)	1-888-442-4551
Health Care Benefits	1-877-222-8387
Income Verification and Medical Testing	1-800-729-1387
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Mammography Helpline	1-888-492-7844
Special Issues (Gulf War, Agent Orange, Ionizing Radiation, etc.)	1-800-748-6667
Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947

### **What's the difference between disability compensation and disability pension?**

Disability compensation is a benefit paid to a veteran because of injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, or were made worse by active military service. It is also paid to certain veterans disabled from VA health care.

The benefits are tax-free.

Please visit

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/compensation>

for more information.

Pension is a benefit paid to [wartime veterans](#) who have [limited or no income](#) , and who are 65 or older,

or,

if under 65, who are permanently and totally disabled

. Veterans who are more seriously disabled may qualify for

[Aid and Attendance](#)

[or](#)

[Housebound](#)

benefits.

These are benefits that are paid in addition to the basic pension rate.

Please visit

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension>

for more information

## How Do I Get a VA Home Loan?

Please visit <http://www.homeloans.va.gov> for useful forms and information on the VA Loan Guaranty Home Loan Program.

If you have specific questions about the program, you should contact the VA Eligibility Center in Winston-Salem through the following website: <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/contact.htm> .

## **How Do I Get a Copy of My Military Records?**

For copies of your military service records you should contact the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC): <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html>

## **How Can I Get Replacement Medals?**

For information on how to make a request for issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards, please visit <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/awards-and-decorations.html>